

**In the Claims:**

Set forth below is the entire set of pending claims.

- 1                   1.       (Original) A consumable order-assistance system for  
2 computer peripheral devices, comprising:  
3                   a personal computer having a messaging system;  
4                   at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging  
5 system;  
6                   a communication link signal coupling the personal computer with a  
7 seller of a consumable for the computer peripheral device; and  
8                   a user interaction site configured to receive a notification from the  
9 computer peripheral device via the messaging system of a need to order a  
10 consumable;  
11                  wherein the user interaction site is provided within one of: a single-  
12 connection environment as an end user interface; an unmanaged network  
13 environment as a workgroup administrator interface; and a server-based  
14 centralized network environment as a centralized system administrator interface.
- 1                   2.       (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim  
2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are  
3 connected with a bus, and wherein the user interaction site comprises a printer  
4 driver of the personal computer provided within a single-connection  
5 environment.
- 1                   3.       (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim  
2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are  
3 provided within an unmanaged network environment, the user interaction site  
4 comprises an embedded web server of the computer peripheral device, and the  
5 embedded web server generates and forwards a message to a user at the  
6 personal computer to prompt ordering of a consumable.

1                   4.       (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim  
2   1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are  
3   provided within a network environment having a central server, the user  
4   interaction site comprises a network administrator personal computer  
5   communicating with the server, and a network management application provided  
6   on the server generates and forwards a message to a network administrator.

1                   5.       (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim  
2   1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a centralized administrator  
3   interface comprising a centralized purchaser, and wherein a centralized order-  
4   assistance tool of a network server delivers a notification to the centralized  
5   purchaser of a need to order a consumable.

1                   6.       (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim  
2   1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a user interface of the personal  
3   computer.

1                   7.       (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim  
2   1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a user interface for facilitating user  
3   access to the computer peripheral device to receive notification of a need to  
4   order a consumable for the computer peripheral device.

1                   8.       (Original) A computer-implemented self-adjusting  
2   consumable order-assistance system which implements a program in which  
3   consumable components of computer peripheral devices are replenished, the  
4   system comprising:  
5                   a personal computer having a messaging system;  
6                   at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging  
7   system;  
8                   a communication link signal coupling the personal computer with a  
9   reseller of a consumable; and

10                   a user interface comprising an end user interaction interface, a  
11   workgroup administrator interface, or a centralized system administrator  
12   interface, the end user interaction interface including the personal computer  
13   configurable for interaction by a user that is exchanging information with a  
14   computer peripheral device associated with the personal computer, the  
15   workgroup administrator interface operative to manage one computer peripheral  
16   device at a time, and the centralized system administrator interface  
17   communicating with a server of a centralized network environment.

1                   9.     (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the end user  
2   interaction system comprises a printer driver of the personal computer.

1                   10.    (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the workgroup  
2   administrator interface comprises an embedded web server of the computer  
3   peripheral device.

1                   11.    (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the centralized  
2   system administrator interface comprises a network management application  
3   usable by a network administrator.

1                   12.    (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the end user  
2   interaction system is provided within a single-connection environment  
3   comprising the personal computer communicating with the computer peripheral  
4   device via a bus, and wherein a single user has dedicated access to the personal  
5   computer.

1                   13.    (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the workgroup  
2   administrative interface comprises an embedded web server within the computer  
3   peripheral device, and wherein the embedded web server comprises an interface  
4   for the order-assistance system.

1                   14.    (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the centralized  
2 system administrator interface comprises a centralized order-assistance tool, and  
3 wherein the centralized order-assistance tool is provided within a centralized  
4 network environment having a server.

1                   15.    (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the computer  
2 peripheral device comprises an embedded web server, the personal computer  
3 and the computer peripheral device are provided within an unmanaged network  
4 environment, and the embedded web server initiates ordering of a consumable in  
5 response to a detected need to replenish the consumable.

1                   16.    (Original) A method of providing order assistance,  
2 comprising:  
3                   providing a computer peripheral device, a personal computer having  
4 a communication link with a reseller of a consumable, a messaging system  
5 extending between the computer peripheral device and the personal computer,  
6 and a user interaction site;

7                   determining an environment in which the computer peripheral  
8 device and the personal computer are provided by detecting the presence of a  
9 parallel cable or the presence of a network environment;

10                  for the case where the presence of a network environment is  
11 detected, further broadcasting a discovery protocol to detect the presence of a  
12 centralized order-assistance solution; and

13                  based on the determined environment, providing the user  
14 interaction site in the form of: a user interface when the network environment  
15 comprises a single-connection environment; an embedded web server when the  
16 network environment comprises an unmanaged network environment; and a

17 centralized system administrator interface when the network environment  
18 comprises a server-based, centralized network environment.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein, when the  
2 presence of a parallel cable is detected, the network environment is determined  
3 to be a single-connection environment, the computer peripheral device interacts  
4 at an end user level.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the network  
2 environment comprises a single-connection environment, the user interface site  
3 comprises an interface to a consumable order assistance computer program  
4 resident on the personal computer, and the program provides an order location  
5 to a user for purchasing a consumable.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the computer  
2 peripheral device comprises an embedded web server, the network environment  
3 comprises an unmanaged network environment, and the embedded web server  
4 initiates ordering of a consumable in response to a detected need to replenish  
5 the consumable.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the personal  
2 computer comprises a maintainer computer, the network environment comprises  
3 a managed, centralized network environment having a server, and the server  
4 sends a notification to the maintainer computer of a need to order a consumable.